

NAKAZAWA et al.
Appl. No. 09/771,942
December 14, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 23, 25-29, 34 and 36-42 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claim 34 has been amended, and claims 30-33 have been canceled.

Claims 30, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,855,762 to Suzuki. Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,695,824 to Tazaki. Without conceding these rejections, claims 30-33 have been canceled. Applicants thus respectfully submit that the rejections are moot.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 34, 37 and 39 and that claims 23, 25-29, 36, 38 and 40-42 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Alan M. Kagen
Reg. No. 36,178

AMK:jls
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100